

# **Medicaid Expansion in Wisconsin:**

Public Opinion about Federal Support to Expand Medicaid in Wisconsin



Presented by  
Congressman Ron Kind  
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## I. Background

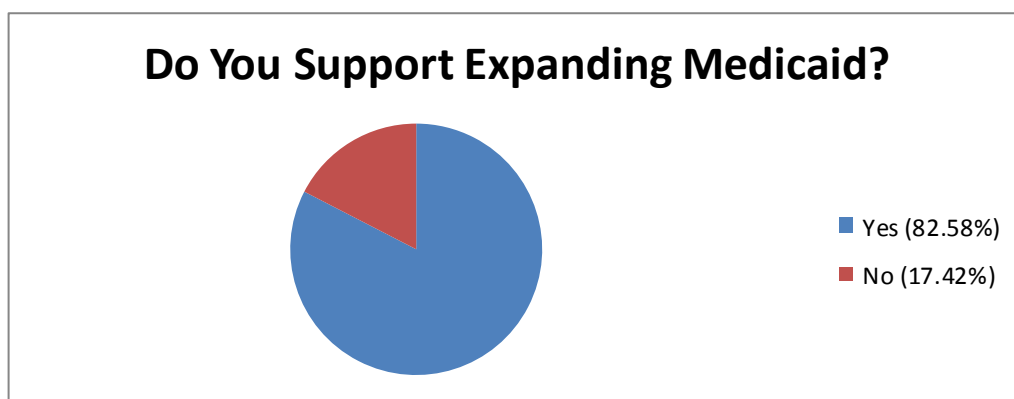
Wisconsin is one of several states that have chosen not to expand Medicaid with federal funds offered under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Republican Governors in Arizona, Arkansas, Iowa, Nevada and New Mexico have done the right thing and taken federal Medicaid expansion support. Wisconsin is currently facing a projected \$2 billion budget shortfall and could save \$345 million by fully expanding Medicaid under the ACA. Meanwhile, the expansion would provide an additional 150,000 Wisconsinites with access to quality, affordable health care.

Congressman Ron Kind organized a Medicaid expansion survey in April of 2015, which was sent to Wisconsin residents. In total, 844 residents responded to the survey and indicated whether they supported expanding Medicaid in Wisconsin. If supportive, respondents were asked to indicate the most important reason(s) for expanding Medicaid in Wisconsin.

## II. Survey

Respondents were first asked “Would you support expanding Medicaid in Wisconsin?” Respondents were given two options: yes or no.

The survey yielded significant insights. First, those who responded to the survey were overwhelmingly in favor of expanding Medicaid in Wisconsin. The survey respondents preferred Medicaid expansion by a rate of four to one. Of those who responded to the survey, 82% favored Medicaid expansion. The chart below depicts the breakdown of respondents who support and do not support expanding Medicaid in Wisconsin.

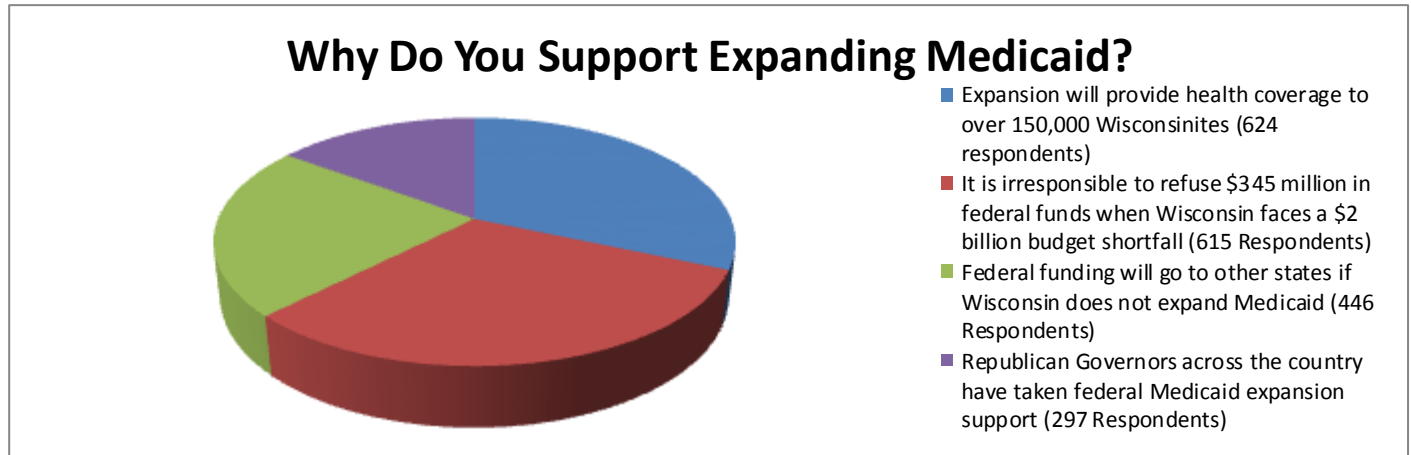


For those who signified support, the survey asked, “If yes, why?” and were given the following for reasons for support:

- Medicaid expansion will provide quality, affordable health coverage to over 150,000 Wisconsinites
- It is irresponsible to refuse \$345 million in federal funds when Wisconsin faces a \$2 billion budget shortfall

- The federal funding will go to other states if Wisconsin does not expand Medicaid
- Republican Governors across the country have taken federal Medicaid expansion support

The chart below shows the breakdown of the respondents' motivation for supporting Medicaid expansion.



Survey respondents were most persuaded by the possibility of health coverage for 150,000 of their fellow Wisconsinites as well as the fiscal responsibility of the plan in equal amounts – approximately 31% of respondents listed these as reasons why they support expanding Medicaid. Approximately 22% of respondents supported expanding Medicaid to ensure Wisconsin's tax dollars are spent in Wisconsin and not in another state. Only about 15% of respondents were supportive because Republican Governors nationwide have taken federal Medicaid expansion support, making it the least influential reason. The chart below displays the survey's feedback on motivation for support.

### III. Conclusion

In conclusion, it is clear that an overwhelming majority of Wisconsinites surveyed support the expansion of Medicaid. Nearly two-thirds of those surveyed support expanding Medicaid because (1) it will provide health coverage to over 150,000 Wisconsinites and (2) they believe it is irresponsible to refuse \$345 million in federal funds when Wisconsin faces a \$2 billion shortfall. The results enclosed serve as yet another reminder that Medicaid expansion is right for Wisconsinites.